

Good morning, my name is Brad Benzing and I am here today representing the membership of Shooters Alliance for Firearms Rights. Chairman Casperson and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today in favor of H.B. 4186.

This past year, a large number of Michigan Concealed Pistol Permit holders have undertaken the renewal process. This large number is due to the expiration of the first group of permits granted under P.A. 381 in 2001. Many applicants, fearing that their permits would expire before their renewal could be processed, applied as much as 6 months in advance. A number of those applications were processed in a timely manner, sometimes in as little as 4 weeks. In other counties such as Wayne and Oakland, renewals have taken as long as 8 months. Unfortunately, Wayne County will only accept a renewal application 6 months before the due date. Given the variability of processing time, a licensee cannot be certain when to apply for a renewal of his or her license. It is very unlikely that the license will be renewed on the day that the prior license expires. It is far more likely is that a licensee will either have a period of overlap between the two licenses, in which case he will not receive the full five years on the new license that he has applied for and paid for, or there will be a gap between the expiration of the first license and the issuance of the second license.

H.B. 4186 would address the issue of losing the weeks or even months to which a person renewing their permit is entitled should their application be approved prior to their expiration date. Although this Bill does not address the problem of those permits that expire while a license holder is waiting for their local Gun Board to act, it does insure that a licensee receives the full 5 year permit that they are paying for. It is the hope of our membership that other legislation currently under consideration will correct the problems created in the event a permit should lapse even though the permit holder has acted in good faith and applied in advance of their expiration date.

Thank you.

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